

PLYMOUTH BOROUGH
WORK SESSION AND COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 8, 2019

COUNCIL ENTERED INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION 6:02 PM TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL MATTERS. THE WORK SESSION BEGAN AT 6:19 PM. THE PLYMOUTH BOROUGH WORK SESSION BEGAN AT 6:12 P.M. THE REGULAR MEETING WAS IMMEDIATELY CALLED TO ORDER BY MR. FRANK COUGHLIN, PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

ROLL CALL

MR. CUNNINGHAM	MRS. EROH	MR. RUSESKAS
MR. DIXON	MR. THOMAS	MR. COUGHLIN

MR. PETERS WAS EXCUSED.

CITIZEN'S REQUESTS AND COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

THERE WERE NO REQUESTS OR COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS.

CITIZENS REQUESTS AND COMMENTS REGARDING GENERAL ITEMS

MRS. MARY JARRET OF CENTER AVENUE SAID IT CAME TO HER ATTENTION THAT THERE IS SOMEONE ON COUNCIL WHO SHOULD HAVE BEEN ON THE BALLOT BECAUSE IT IS MUNICIPAL YEAR AFTER AN APPOINTMENT. MR. COUGHLIN SAID THAT THEY ARE LOOKING INTO THAT AND THAT IT JUST CAME TO THEIR ATTENTION. MR. COUGHLIN SAID THEY WILL FOLLOW THE PROPER PROCEDURE IN ORDER TO MAKE IT RIGHT.

MR. MARK KOBUSKY SAID HE WAS INTERESTED IN FILLING MR. PETERS' COUNCIL SEAT. MR. COUGHLIN SAID HE WILL DISCUSS THAT LATER IN THE MEETING.

MEETING AGENDA

1. MOTION: I HEREBY MOVE TO APPROVE THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT, DATED SEPTEMBER 30, 2019 BETWEEN THE BOROUGH AND THE BOROUGH FIREFIGHTERS, LOCAL 840, WHICH WAS NEGOTIATED BETWEEN THE PARTIES FOR THE CONTRACT YEAR COMMENCING JANUARY 1, 2020 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2022. I FURTHER MOVE TO

AUTHORIZE THE PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL, FRANK COUGHLIN, TO SIGN AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE BOROUGH AND AUTHORIZE THE BOROUGH SECRETARY & TREASURER, HOLLY SPECE, TO ATTEST TO THE SAME AND AFFIX THE BOROUGH SEAL TO THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT.

MR. DIXON MADE THE MOTION.

MR. CUNNINGHAM CALLED THE SECOND ON THE MOTION.

MR. COUGHLIN THANKED THE FIREFIGHTERS FOR NEGOTIATING A GOOD CONTRACT IN GOOD FAITH AND MR. CUNNINGHAM AND MR. THOMAS FOR NEGOTIATING THE CONTRACT.

THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

2. ORDINANCE NO. 6 OF 2019: AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF PLYMOUTH, COUNTY OF LUZERNE, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, CONFIRMING AND ACCEPTING CERTIFICATION BY PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP TO HAVE THE PLYMOUTH BOROUGH FIRE DEPARTMENT AND PLYMOUTH BOROUGH DRIVERS AS ONE OF PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP'S FIRE COMPANIES.

MR. THOMAS MADE THE MOTION.

MRS. EROH CALLED THE SECOND ON THE MOTION.

MR. COUGHLIN SAID HE DISCUSSED THIS MATTER DURING THE WORK SESSION.

THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

3. MOTION: TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE OFFICE OF STATE FIRE COMMISSION FOR A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF FIFTEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$15,000.00).

MR. CUNNINGHAM MADE THE MOTION.

MR. RUSESKAS CALLED THE SECOND ON THE MOTION.

MR. DIXON ASKED WHAT THIS GRANT ENTAILED. MS. SPECE SAID THAT THEY HAVE BEEN APPLYING FOR THIS PROGRAM FOR THE LAST FOUR TO FIVE YEARS AND THEY HAVE BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL. SHE SAID LAST YEAR THEY WERE AWARDED OVER TWELVE THOUSAND DOLLARS. MS. SPECE SAID THAT PLYMOUTH BOROUGH APPLIES ON BEHALF OF ALL THREE FIRE COMPANIES FOR EQUIPMENT THAT THEY CAN ALL USE. SHE SAID THIS YEAR THEY WOULD LIKE TO APPLY TO PUT AN ITEM ON THE BACK OF THEIR BRUSH TRUCK THAT WAS JUST OBTAINED FROM DCNR. MS. SPECE ASKED MS. BOLESTA TO DISCUSS THAT MATTER FURTHER. MS. BOLESTA SAID THEY DECIDED TO APPLY FOR A SKID UNIT FOR THE BACK OF THE TRUCK WHICH WAS PROVIDED BY DCNR AND SUPPLEMENTAL EQUIPMENT FOR THE WILD LAND AND BRUSH FIRES. MR. COUGHLIN SAID THE BRUSH TRUCK WAS A GREAT IDEA AND MR. DIXON AGREED.

THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

4. RESOLUTION NO. 6 OF 2019: A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH

OF PLYMOUTH, LUZERNE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, APPROVING A BID AND SALE OF 50 VINE STREET, PLYMOUTH, PENNSYLVANIA.

ONE BID WAS RECEIVED FROM JEROME LECK IN THE AMOUNT OF ONE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED SEVENTY-ONE DOLLARS AND FIFTY-ONE CENTS (\$1,671.51). MR. COUGHLIN ASKED THE BOROUGH SECRETARY & TREASURER IF SHE HAD THE APPRAISAL. SHE SAID SHE DID. MR. COUGHLIN SAID THE APPRAISAL WAS CONDUCTED BY ROSEN REAL ESTATE AND WAS APPRAISED AT FOUR THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$4,000.00). HE SAID THE BID RECEIVED WAS FOR LESS THAN HALF OF THE APPRAISED VALUE. HE SAID AT THIS TIME, HE IS NOT SURE WHETHER OR NOT COUNCIL WOULD LIKE TO VOTE OR TABLE IT. MR. KOSTELANSKY SAID THAT COUNCIL MAY GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS. MR. COUGHLIN SAID HE DOES NOT WANT TO ACCEPT THAT LOW OF A BID. MR. KOSTELANSKY SAID THAT COUNCIL HAS THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS. MR. COUGHLIN SAID THEY WILL VOTE ON IT.

MR. DIXON MADE THE MOTION.

MRS. EROH CALLED THE SECOND ON THE MOTION.

MR. CUNNINGHAM, MR. RUSESKAS AND MR. COUGHLIN VOTED NO ON THE MOTION.

MR. DIXON, MRS. EROH, MR. THOMAS VOTED YES ON THE MOTION.

THE MOTION DID NOT PASS.

MR. DIXON ASKED EVERYONE IF THEY KNEW WHERE THAT PARCEL OF LAND WAS LOCATED AND ADDED THAT IT WAS ACROSS FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT. MR. COUGHLIN ASKED MR. KOSTELANSKY IF THEY COULD RE-ADVERTISE TO ACCEPT BIDS. MR. KOSTELANSKY SAID YES.

5. RESOLUTION NO. 7 OF 2019: A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF PLYMOUTH, LUZERNE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, APPROVING A BID AND SALE OF 154 NESBITT LANE, PLYMOUTH, PENNSYLVANIA.

BIDS WERE NOT RECEIVED.

6. MOTION: TO ACCEPT AND APPROVE A PROPOSAL FOR CODIFICATION SERVICES FROM GENERAL CODE IN THE AMOUNT OF NINE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED NINETY-FIVE DOLLARS (\$9,695.00).

MR. THOMAS MADE THE MOTION.

MR. DIXON CALLED THE SECOND ON THE MOTION.

MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

MR. COUGHLIN SAID THE CODIFICATION IS NEEDED AND THAT THE LAST CODIFICATION TOOK PLACE IN 1981.

7. MOTION: I HEREBY MOVE TO HIRE CRYSTAL ROPER AS A CROSSING GUARD AS AN AT WILL EMPLOYEE AND SHALL RECEIVE NO BENEFITS OF ANY TYPE, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO SICK TIME, VACATION TIME, HOLIDAY PAY, OR HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE.SHE

SHALL BE PAID AN HOURLY RATE OF EIGHT DOLLARS AND SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS (\$8.75) PER HOUR.

MR. DIXON MADE THE MOTION.

MR. RUSESKAS CALLED THE SECOND ON THE MOTION.

MR. COUGHLIN ASKED HOW THERE WERE ON CROSSING GUARDS. MR. DIXON SAID THEY WERE SHORT BECAUSE HE IS STILL FILLING IN AS NEEDED, MR. COUGHLIN SAID ANYONE WHO IS INTERESTED IN WORKING AS A CROSSING GUARD CAN STOP AT THE OFFICE.

THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

8. TO ACCEPT A LETTER OF RESIGNATION FROM BOROUGH COUNCIL BY MR. CLYDE PETERS.

MR. THOMAS MADE THE MOTION WITH REGRET.

MR. CUNNINGHAM CALLED THE SECOND WITH REGRET.

THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED WITH REGRET.

9. MOTION: TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF A 1999 FORD F250 TRUCK IN THE AMOUNT OF FOUR THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED AND FIFTY-ONE DOLLARS (\$4,551.00) FROM CENTRAL CITY MOTORS TO BE USED BY THE PLYMOUTH BOROUGH FIRE COMPANIES.

MR. CUNNINGHAM MADE THE MOTION.

MR. THOMAS CALLED THE SECOND ON THE MOTION.

MR. COUGHLIN SAID THIS WAS THE BRUSH TRUCK THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT EARLIER AND SAID THE PURCHASE WOULD HELP IN PROVIDING FIRE SERVICES IN TIGHT AREAS.

THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

10. MOTION: TO APPROVE MONTHLY FIRE, POLICE AND TREASURER'S REPORTS.

MR. CUNNINGHAM MADE THE MOTION.

MRS. EROH CALLED THE SECOND ON THE MOTION.

THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

11. MOTION: TO PAY OCTOBER BILLS.

GENERAL FUND: 19-696-19-748

LIQUID FUEL FUND: 19-093-19-106

RECREATION FUND: 19-045-19-048

MR. RUSESKAS MADE THE MOTION.

MR. CUNNINGHAM CALLED THE SECOND ON THE MOTION.

THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED EXCEPT FOR MR. THOMAS WHO FAVORABLY VOTED FOR PAYMENT ON ALL BILLS EXCEPT HIS SUPPLEMENTAL INSURANCES FOR WHICH HE HAS A PERSONAL INTEREST BECAUSE OF CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENTS.

MR. COUGHLIN SAID HE WANTED TO MAKE A FEW ANNOUNCEMENTS. MR. COUGHLIN SAID ON FRIDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 27TH, 2019, OUR MAYOR MR. THOMAS McTAGUE PASSED AWAY. HE SAID HE FOUGHT A LONG BATTLE AND HE WILL BE MISSED. MR. COUGHLIN SAID HE SERVED WITH MR. McTAGUE SINCE JANUARY 1996 UNTIL DECEMBER 2015 AS COUNCIL MEMBERS. HE SAID ALSO THE PERIOD WHILE MR. McTAGUE WAS MAYOR WAS FROM JANUARY 2018 TO SEPTEMBER 27, 2019. HE SAID MR. McTAGUE IN HIS OWN WAY TRIED TO DO WHAT HE COULD FOR PLYMOUTH. MR. COUGHLIN SAID HE WAS A FEISTY GENTLEMAN. MR. COUGHLIN SAID NO ONE THERE COULD EVER DENY HIS LOVE FOR THIS TOWN AND ADDED THAT HE TRULY LOVED PLYMOUTH. HE SAID THAT HIM AND MR. McTAGUE HAD DISAGREEMENTS BUT THAT IS COMMON WHEN SERVING ON COUNCIL. HE SAID THEY WERE LIKE GENTLEMEN AND WOULD SIT DOWN AND WORKED OUT ANY ISSUES FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THE TOWN. HE SAID THAT HE WAS A FIXTURE IN THIS TOWN AND WILL BE MISSED.

MR. COUGHLIN SAID WHILE MR. McTAGUE WAS IN A NURSING HOME HE WAS ACTING AS MAYOR AND HE SAID HE WAS HOPING TO SERVE AS ACTING MAYOR UNTIL THE END OF THE YEAR, TO HONOR MR. McTAGUE, BUT DUE TO BOROUGH CODE, THEY HAVE THIRTY DAYS FROM THE DAY OF MR. McTAGUE'S PASSING, MR. COUGHLIN SAID HE FELT THAT WAS HARSH. MR. COUGHLIN SAID THEY WILL HOLD A SPECIAL MEETING TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22ND, 2019 TO APPOINT A NEW MAYOR. HE SAID IF ANYONE WAS INTERESTED IN FILLING THE VACANT MAYORAL POSITION TO PLEASE SUBMIT A LETTER OF INTEREST BY NOON ON OCTOBER 22ND, 2019. MR. COUGHLIN SAID THE TERM WILL COVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS. HE SAID IN ADDITION THEY WILL NEED TO FILL A VACANT COUNCIL SEAT. HE SAID THERE WILL BE A SPECIAL MEETING AT 6:00 P.M., WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH, 2019 TO APPOINT A NEW COUNCIL PERSON. HE SAID ANYONE WHO IS INTERESTED IN FILLING MR. PETERS' SEAT IS WELCOMED TO SUBMIT A LETTER OF INTEREST BY NOON ON NOVEMBER 6TH, 2019.

MR. DIXON SAID HE HAS BEEN THERE FOR EIGHT YEARS AND PRAYS THAT THEY GET LEVEL HEADED PEOPLE WHO COME UP THERE AND HELP THEM FOR THE BEST INTEREST OF THE TOWN.

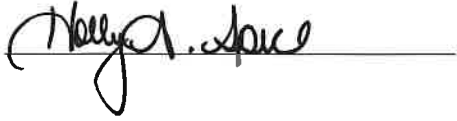
MR. COUGHLIN THANKED THE POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR STANDING GUARD OF MR. McTAGUE DURING FUNERAL SERVICES AND SAID THEY DID A REALLY GREAT JOB IN HONORING THE MAYOR. HE ALSO THANKED ALL COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR ATTENDING THE WAKE TOGETHER.

MR. COUGHLIN SAID THAT HE HAS BEEN TOLD BY CERTAIN PEOPLE THAT PLYMOUTH BOROUGH IS ONE OF THE BIGGEST SUPPORTERS OF THE RAIN TAX. HE SAID THAT IT IS 100% UNTRUE. HE SAID ANYONE THAT ATTENDS MEETINGS HEAR HIM SAY THAT HE DOESN'T WANT TO PAY. HE SAID THEY SIGNED ON ALONG WITH EVERY OTHER TOWN BECAUSE IT WAS THE CHEAPEST OPTION. HE SAID THEY DID NOT WANT TO DO IT. MR. COUGHLIN SAID IN THE LONG RUN, IT WOULD COST THE RESIDENTS A LOT MORE MONEY. HE SAID IF THERE WAS A WAY TO STOP THIS TAX THEY WOULD BE GLAD TO DO IT.

12. MOTION: TO ADJOURN.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:00 P.M...

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Holly A. Spece", is written over a horizontal line.

HOLLY A. SPECE

BOROUGH SECRETARY & TREASURER

PLYMOUTH BOROUGH